



Chris Webb

**Proposed by Simon Dawson,
Alderbury Deanery**

**Seconded by Fiona Hulbert,
Salisbury Deanery**

Inclusive Church Candidate.

"I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality."

In times gone by, the Church was the centre of every community. I want to work to make that the case once more. Outreach and evangelism need to be at the heart of

all we do as we spread the Good News.

We need to create a Church which addresses our current environmental challenges, and aims for social justice, a church which is **truly inclusive** and open where **everyone** is able to participate fully.

"A new Commandment I give you, that you love one another" John 13.34

I am proud to be supported by Inclusive Church, which is an Organisation reflecting the breadth and scope of the Church of England as well as embracing ecumenism. Inclusive Church celebrates and wants to maintain the traditional inclusivity and diversity of the Anglican Communion.

"Come as you are. Everyone belongs." Fr Richard Rohr, Priest and theological writer.

Please give me, Chris Webb, your first preference vote and I will be a voice working for a Church that is **more than just welcoming**, but that **INCLUDES** everyone who wants to be a part of it. **This is ADDING something**, not taking anything away.

"Strengthen the things that remain." Bob Dylan

I am a lifelong Member of the Church of England. I was baptised as an infant at Holy Trinity, Millbrook, Southampton, and Confirmed by the Bishop of Winchester. I studied Theology at St Paul's College, Cheltenham from 1969 to 1972, and taught for 16 years before going into business in professional theatre (behind the scenes!) Now retired, **I have the time, the commitment and the enthusiasm** to serve on General Synod.

I am Anglican through and through. However, ecumenism is very important to me. For several years I have also been a Member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and since 2017,

I have served on the Executive of Churches Together Dorset alongside Bishop Karen and representatives from URC, RC, Methodist, Baptist etc.

**“Carry each others’ burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ”
Galatians 6.2**

In 2018, I was privileged to be appointed Dorset Delegate to the Churches Together England Forum at Derby. Our theme was **“I am with you always”**, which is my favourite Bible quotation, being the very last verse of Matthew’s Gospel.

In 1986 I met Michael, who is the love of my life. We are both committed Christians, and our deep Christian faith has been at the centre of our 35 years together.

Michael and I are Speaker Booking Secretaries for the William Temple Association in Bournemouth. We hold monthly dinners with a stimulating array of theological speakers. Until Covid put a pause on our programme, we had recently welcomed Revd Canon Angela Tilby, Emeritus Professor Dr David Catchpole, Revd Dr Sally Welch Area Dean of Chipping Norton, and many others. It is an Anglican foundation, and also completely ecumenical.

I am committed to **equality for women**, LGBT and other minorities at all levels and in all roles. We should nurture and use the talents and gifts of everybody.

I regularly read Church Times, following developments in General Synod and Church business in general. Current issues of importance include **“Living in Love and Faith”**, the **climate change** emergency, **safeguarding, liturgy** and what we teach. The Clergy Discipline Measure is currently causing great distress in many cases. However, above all these concerns is **mission**. May we all be guided in how to spread the Word.

The most pressing thing for Synod to consider is how we bring the people of this country to a knowledge of **Jesus Christ as their Saviour**. In this “lost”, materialistic age, we need to bring the Light into the world, not hide it under a bushel. Are we, as the Church, in some ways “lost” ourselves?

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?” Matthew 5.13

This is the main question that challenges us today. If we discern the **Leadings of the Holy Spirit** in our deliberations, we shall find the Way by giving all our concerns and questions to the Lord.

Two way communication is essential. To this end, I will be **open and available**, ready to take your concerns forward to Synod and, most importantly, to report back on outcomes and progress. Thank you for reading my statement.

Please give me your 1st Preference vote and let me work to spread the Good News. And, of course, if you want to contact me about anything, I will always be pleased to hear from you.

Yours in Christ, Chris Webb

T: 07760 353634

E: chriswebb1212@hotmail.com